

## What Things In Life Have True Value?

What is it in life that has true value? Of course, you will expect an answer in a church bulletin article be of a spiritual nature. If the same question were to be presented elsewhere, not in a biblical/spiritual context, what would you say? Will you find an answer...

- In the financial bulletin?
- In the real estate newsletter?
- In the sports column?
- In the entertainment blog on the web?

What about a health journal? Political column? Science journal? Nature bulletin? Art blog?

Value. True value: Where will you expect to find the answer?

Solomon wrote:

**Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,  
But righteousness delivers from death.  
--Proverbs 11:4**

The 'day of wrath' refers to the day in which God's anger is displayed through his righteous judgment. Since God is pure and holy, he has every right to punish or destroy unholy mankind. He is not unfair; rather, man is unholy and undeserving of God's mercy and kindness. So, God's 'day of wrath' is truly just (fair).

Solomon says that riches do not profit in the day of wrath. Are riches limited to money? Of course not. We should consider all kinds of material wealth.

The simple point is that earthly wealth, regardless of its form or quality or quantity, has no benefit whatsoever when God displays his wrath against mankind because of sin.

However, in sharp contrast to 'riches' stands 'righteousness.' In simple terms, righteousness is *doing what is right in God's eyes*. We should not think of righteousness as mere obedience to religious law, but rather, following God's instruction and example in scripture and striving to please him. (God's instruction comes in many forms, not just commands).

When a person makes a proper response to God's instruction in scripture through righteousness, he will be delivered from the 'day of wrath.'

Wait!

Is that what the verse said?

Literally, it says that he will be delivered from 'death.' But death is set as a parallel to the 'day of wrath.'

So, what in this life is of true value?

What should a person pursue?

How should we order our lives?

*Chase after righteousness.*

*Righteousness is life, true life.*